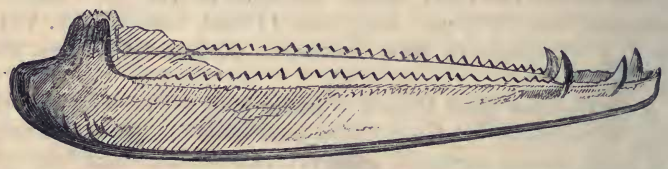
elongate, and the caudal portion of the vertebral column composed of more than fourteen vertebræ, the number of caudal vertebræ is less in the species with the shorter tail. *Trachinus draco*, *T. araneus*, and *T. vipera* have respectively 30–31, 29, and 25 caudal vertebræ, according to the length of their tail. *Cottus scorpius* and *C. bubalis*, the different species of *Solea*, &c., are examples of the same kind. But in *T. armatus* the shortness of the body is not accompanied with, or produced by, a smaller number of vertebræ: it has forty-one vertebræ, thirty of which belong to the caudal portion; or, in other words, it completely agrees in this respect with *T. draco*.

XXXII.—*Note on the Discovery of an extremely minute Vertebrate Lower Jaw in Mud dredged at St. Helena.* By Dr. Wallich, F.L.S.

To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.

Gentlemen,

I beg herewith to enclose a sketch of the jaw of a vertebrate animal, detected by me, a few days ago, in a slide containing a specimen of muddy deposit dredged up at St. Helena, in 1857, in 30 fathoms water, and mounted by me in Canada balsam at the time it was obtained.



The jaw and teeth are fully developed and perfect, there being nothing in the aspect of either to indicate their having formed portions of a creature in a fœtal condition.

The extreme length is $\frac{1}{100}$ inch; so that, assuming the body to have been five times as long as the jaw, we have here evidence of the existence of a vertebrate animal measuring only $\frac{1}{20}$ inch in length—a size considerably below that of many of the organisms usually regarded as microscopic.

I have not had time hitherto to enter into a detailed examination of this most interesting specimen, but shall do myself the pleasure of communicating further particulars regarding it at an early opportunity.

I remain, Gentlemen,
Your most obedient Servant,
G. C. Wallich.

17 Campden Hill Road, Kensington.
Sept. 21, 1862.